

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 000654

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF, AF/E, AND AF/EPS
STATE ALSO FOR INR/B
PARIS/LONDON FOR AFRICA WATCHER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/11/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [ETRD](#) [PINR](#) [DJ](#)

SUBJECT: AGOA FORUM: FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO CONFIRMS
ATTENDANCE

REF: DJIBOUTI 000611

Classified By: AMBASSADOR MARGUERITA D. RAGSDALE.
REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) During Ambassador's 6/11 meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahmoud Ali Youssouf on New Embassy Compound (NEC) issues, she informed the Minister of the Secretary of State's planned participation in the Dakar AGOA Forum July 18-20. She told the Minister that the Secretary's travel to Senegal would be her first to Africa as Secretary of State.

2. (C) Mahmoud expressed pleasure with the Secretary's plan to participate and also informed the Ambassador that he would join Djibouti's Minister of Commerce, Rifki Abdoulkader Bamakrama, and Director of Commerce, Houssein Elmi Houdon, in the country's delegation at the AGOA talks. He said he hoped there would be an opportunity to meet with Secretary Rice but understood this may be difficult given the large number of ministers expected to be present at the event.

3. (C) Bio-data on Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahmoud Ali Youssouf: Born September 2, 1965. He is an Afar from the Tadjourah district of Djibouti. He earned his Baccalaureate in Djibouti. He studied at Lumiere University in Lyon, France, receiving a bachelor's degree in foreign languages in 1990. Youssouf's diplomatic career began in 1992 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as head of section in the International Organizations Department. After management training in 1995, he took the position of Director of Arab Affairs. In 1997, he was named Djibouti's Ambassador to Egypt, where he also served as his country's representative to the Arab League. He served at the rank of Ambassador until appointed in 2001 as Minister delegated under the Minister of Foreign Affairs and charged with International Cooperation. He became Minister of Foreign Affairs in May 2005 with the most recent government cabinet reshuffle. He replaced Ali Abdi Farah, whose is still experiencing the effects of a stroke suffered in February 2005. Youssouf is fluent in French, Arabic, English and Afar, and also speaks Somali. He is deemed one of, if not the, most competent of current government ministers. End bio-data.
RAGSDALE